
Review of the year – 2017 UK weather

Description

2017 saw named storms and heatwaves affect the UK, but perhaps the most memorable day was October 16 when the 30th anniversary of the 1987 Great Storm was marked by an ex-hurricane generating headlines as the sky and the sun turned red.

Here's a brief look back at some of the UK weather highlights for 2017:

January



The year started on a dry note with below average rainfall for the month in most areas, especially the north where well below half of the month's average rainfall fell. It was sunny too, the 10th sunniest

January across the UK in records going back to 1929

There was a cold snap between the 11th and 14th with snow for most places and, although lying snow tended to be short-lived on low ground 18cm of snow was recorded at Tulloch Bridge, Inverness-shire.

Icy conditions were a feature towards the end of the month which, combined with freezing fog, cause transport problems on the roads and airports across the south of England

What	How much	Where
Highest temperature	14.2 °C	Achfary (Sutherland) and Plockton (Wester Ross)
Lowest temperature	-10.1 °C	Braemar (Aberdeenshire)
Wettest day	53.6 mm	Cluanie Inn (Inverness-shire)
Strongest wind	93 mph	High Bradfield (South Yorkshire)

February



The month was generally mild and unsettled with wet and windy weather sweeping northeast across the UK at regular intervals.

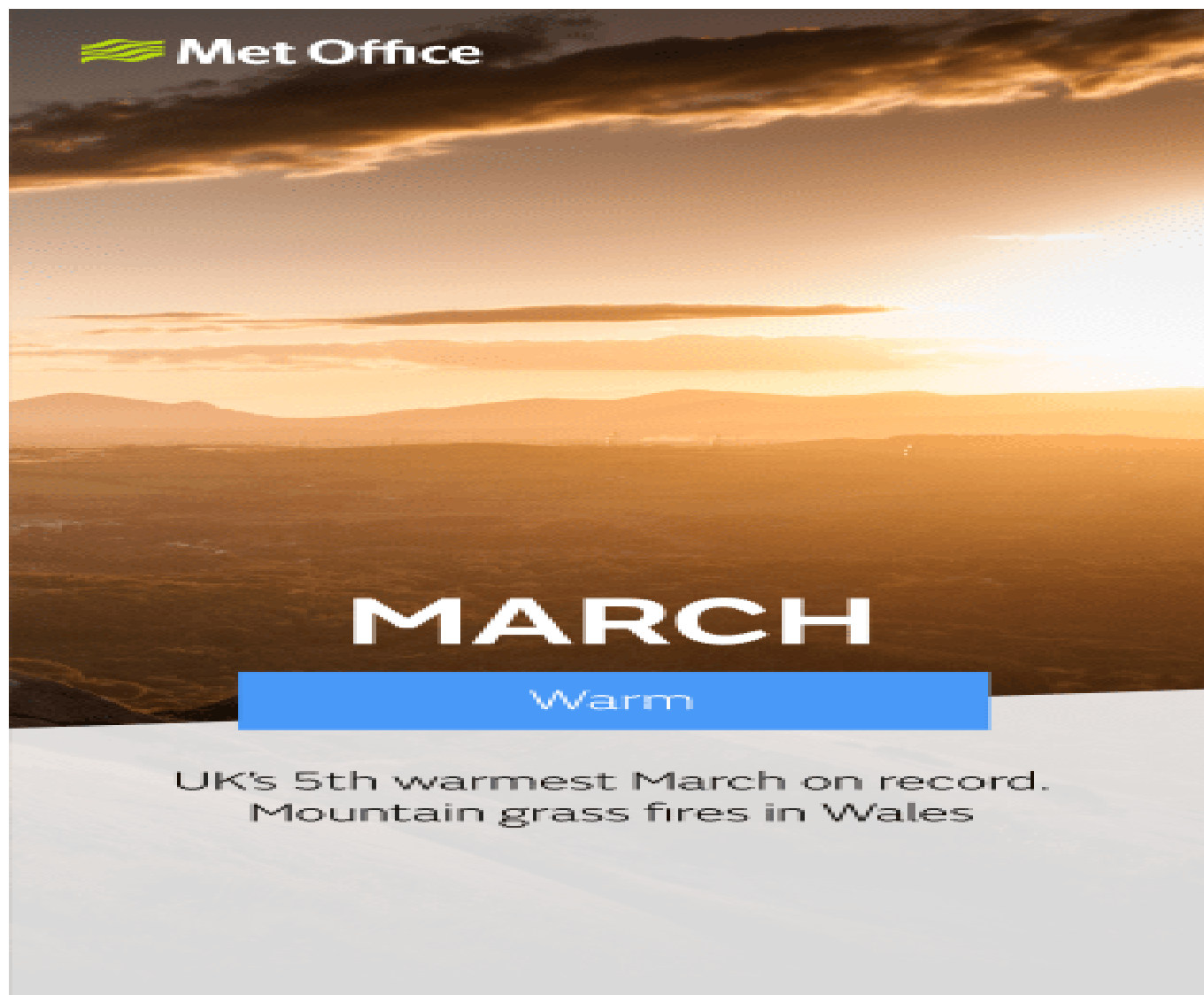
Storm Doris was the most notable feature of the month's weather for the UK, bringing damaging winds to parts of England and Wales on the 23rd and heavy snow to parts of Scotland.

Tragically there were two reported deaths as a result of Storm Doris as it caused major travel disruption, damage to buildings and left thousands of homes and businesses without power across Wales and the southern half of England. Snow caused significant disruption in parts of central Scotland, with the M80 closed completely for a time during the morning rush hour.

What	How much	Where
Highest temperature	18.3 °C	Northolt and Kew Gardens (Greater London)
Lowest temperature	-9.8 °C	Altnaharra (Sutherland)

Wettest day	50.2 mm	Cluanie Inn (Inverness-shire)
Strongest wind	94 mph	Capel Curig (Conwy)

March



Mild west or south-westerly winds dominated the weather for much of March bringing generally changeable conditions, and just a couple of colder spells which brought snow to some northern areas.

The UK's mean temperature was 7.3 °C, some 1.8 °C above the long term average and making it the 5th warmest March on records that go back to 1910. It was particularly warm in southeast England where the county of Essex had its warmest March on record with a mean temperature of 9.4 °C

Snow resulted in travel disruption around the 21st of the month, causing road accidents and closing some higher routes in northern England and Scotland. The dry weather led to a marked increase in mountain grass fires in south Wales towards the end of the month. In 24 hours Mid and West Wales Fire Service dealt with over 27 separate grass fire incidents.

What	How much	Where
Highest temperature	22.1 °C	Gravesend (Kent)
Lowest temperature	-8.6 °C	Dalwhinnie (Inverness-shire)
Wettest day	75.0 mm	Trassey Slievenaman (County Down)
Strongest wind	77 mph	Fair Isle and Lerwick (Shetland)

April

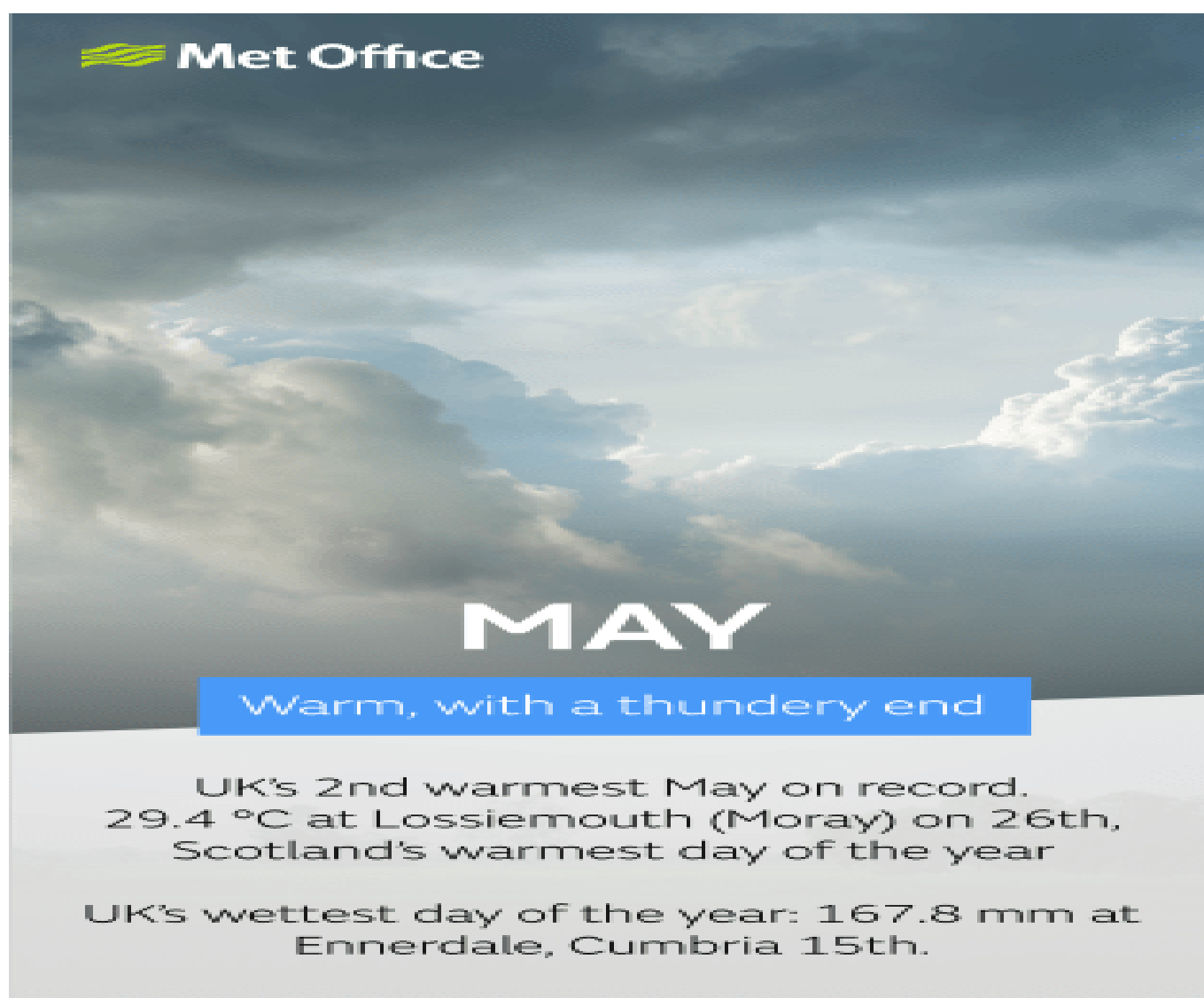


A quiet month with high pressure dominating the weather for much of the time, giving a dry month in many areas.

It was the UK's 10th driest April on records going back to 1910 with parts of south-east England, and around Lothian and Fife having less than 5 mm of rain during the month.

What	How much	Where
Highest temperature	25.5 °C	Cambridge (Cambridgeshire)
Lowest temperature	-6.2 °C	Cromdale (Moray)
Wettest day	58.8 mm	Achfary (Sutherland)
Strongest wind	77 mph	Sella Ness (Shetland)

May



The graphic features a background image of a dramatic sky with large, white, billowing clouds against a blue backdrop. In the top left corner, the Met Office logo is displayed. The word 'MAY' is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters in the center. Below it, a blue rectangular box contains the text 'Warm, with a thundery end'. At the bottom, two lines of text provide specific weather records: 'UK's 2nd warmest May on record. 29.4 °C at Lossiemouth (Moray) on 26th, Scotland's warmest day of the year' and 'UK's wettest day of the year: 167.8 mm at Ennerdale, Cumbria 15th.'

Met Office

MAY

Warm, with a thundery end

UK's 2nd warmest May on record.
29.4 °C at Lossiemouth (Moray) on 26th,
Scotland's warmest day of the year

UK's wettest day of the year: 167.8 mm at
Ennerdale, Cumbria 15th.

A month of two halves, with the first half being dominated by high pressure, fine weather and easterly

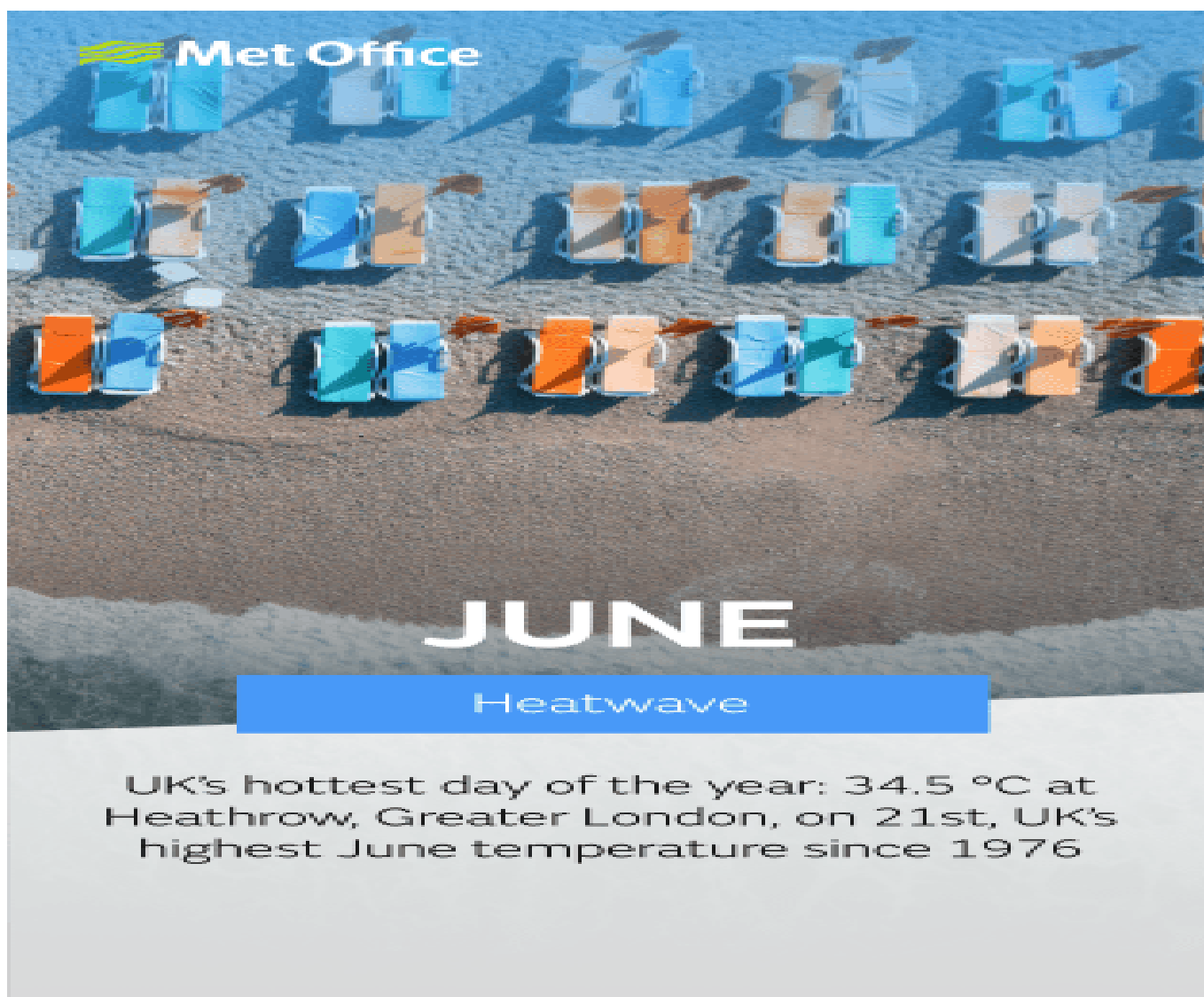
winds and the second half seeing a return to changeable conditions and the first of the years notable thundery spells.

It was the second warmest May on record (records back to 1910) with a UK mean temperature of 12.1 °C. There was a marked contrast in rainfall across the UK with the north and west having below average totals while the south and east were quite wet in places.

Thunderstorms between the 27th and 29th saw Cornwall and Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Services reporting a number of callouts due to lightning strikes.

What	How much	Where
Highest temperature	29.4 °C	Lossiemouth (Moray)
Lowest temperature	-5.1 °C	Shap (Cumbria)
Wettest day	66 mm	Capel Curig (Conwy)
Strongest wind	62 mph	Culdrose (Cornwall)

June



After a very unsettled start the UK experienced a spell of hot, sunny weather in June 2017 associated with high pressure drawing very warm air from the near-continent. The temperature exceeded 30 °C somewhere in the UK every day from 17th to 21st and the hottest day of the year was recorded at Heathrow (Greater London) on 21st when the temperature reached 34.5 °C, the UK's highest June temperature since 1976.

Despite the heatwave it was a wet month, Scotland had its wettest June in a series since 1910 (157 mm) and the UK overall its sixth wettest June (113.7 mm)

What	How much	Where
Highest temperature	34.5 °C	Heathrow (Greater London)
Lowest temperature	-2.3 °C	Altnaharra (Sutherland)
Wettest day	112.4 mm	Torwinny (Moray)

Strongest wind 69 mph Inverbervie (Kincardineshire)

July



A generally unsettled month with rain at times and only a few brief fine spells.

Thunderstorms and torrential downpours moved north across southern England during the evening of 18th and overnight into the 19th. The worst affected location was the village of Coverack on the eastern side of the Lizard peninsula where flash flooding damaged about 50 properties and roads became impassable.

What	How much	Where
Highest temperature	32.2 °C	Heathrow (Greater London)
Lowest temperature	0.1 °C	Altnaharra (Sutherland)

Wettest day	79 mm	Okehampton (Devon)
Strongest wind	71 mph	Needles (Isle of Wight)

August



The period 1st-13th August was the coldest such period for Central Southern & South-East England since 1987

The 22nd to 25th saw heavy rain over Northern Ireland and much of northern Scotland. There was widespread flooding across north-western parts of Northern Ireland with damage to properties and infrastructure, and over a hundred people were rescued after becoming trapped in homes and cars by overnight flooding.

What	How much	Where
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Highest temperature	29.3 °C	Frittenden (Kent)
Lowest temperature	0.5 °C	Katesbridge (County Down)
Wettest day	76.4 mm	South Uist (Western Isles)
Strongest wind	66 mph	Needles (Isle of Wight)

September



Another unsettled month with the first named storm of the 2017/18 winter season Storm Aileen passing over the UK on the 12th and 13th. The most significant September storm since ex-hurricane Katrina in 2011, Storm Aileen gave winds gusting 50 – 55 mph widely across southern England and Wales and as high as 70 mph in some exposed locations.

Aileen brought significant transport disruption to road and rail with difficult driving conditions and trains delayed or cancelled due to debris and fallen branches. Power outages were reported to have affected 60,000 homes in Wales and 7,000 homes in north-east England. A number of trees (in full leaf at this time of year) were blown over during the night.

What	How much	Where
Highest temperature	24.0 °C	Hawarden (Clwyd)
Lowest temperature	-1.2 °C	Altnaharra (Sutherland)
Wettest day	64 mm	Cullen Bay (Moray)
Strongest wind	83 mph	Needles (Isle of Wight)

October



Most of the month was dominated by warm, moist south-westerly winds, and there were some unusually high temperatures at times, notably on the 16th associated with ex-Hurricane Ophelia. It was often cloudy, but generally dry away from the northwest with rainfall amounts in southern and eastern areas particularly small.

Ex-Hurricane Ophelia moved past the UK on the 16th bringing gusts of wind of 70 – 80 mph to western parts of the UK. The most severe impacts were across the Republic of Ireland, where three people died from falling trees. There was also significant disruption across western parts of the UK, with power cuts affecting thousands of homes and businesses in Wales and Northern Ireland. In addition to this Ophelia drew Saharan dust and wildfire smoke from Spain and Portugal north across the UK, giving a spectacular red sky and sun.

What	How much	Where
Highest temperature	23.5 °C	Manston (Kent)
Lowest temperature	-5.0°C	Tulloch Bridge (Inverness-shire)
Wettest day	90.4 mm	Alltdearg House (Skye)
Strongest wind	90 mph	Aberdaron (Gwynedd) & Capel Curig (Conwy)

November



Unsettled weather continued through November, although short periods of northerly winds saw widespread overnight frosts, and snow showers in northern and eastern areas.

Heavy rain on 22nd saw 73.6 mm being recorded at Hazelrigg (Lancashire), making it the wettest day on record for the station.

In Glencoe, the 28th was the first official day of the new ski season with skiers flocking to the slopes following heavy snowfalls over the mountains in the preceding days.

What	How much	Where	On
Highest temperature	16.8 °C	Chivenor (Devon)	2nd
Lowest temperature	-6.9°C	Bewcastle (Cumbria)	30th
Wettest day	73.6 mm	Hazelrigg (Lancashire)	22nd
Strongest wind	84 mph	Capel Curig (Conwy)	22nd

December



Another unsettled month but with some markedly cold periods which lead to widespread frosts and snow.

Storm Caroline affected the UK on 7 December, bringing very strong winds and transport disruption to the north of Scotland and especially the Western and Northern Isles.

Heavy snow fell across Wales, central and southern England on 10th, with 12 cm of snow settling at High Wycombe (Bucks), and 31 cm at Sennybridge (Powys). Snowiest in lowland England since March 2013. This was the most significant snow fall in terms of depths and extent across Wales and lowland England since March 2013 and brought widespread travel disruption to air, road and rail transport. Hundreds of schools were closed on Monday 11th across England and Wales, and power cuts affected several thousands homes.

What	How much	Where
Highest temperature	15.2 °C	Cassley (Sutherland) Shawbury (Shropshire)
Lowest temperature	-13.0 °C	Dalwhinnie (Inverness-shire)
Wettest day	71 mm	Achnagart (Ross & Cromarty)
Strongest wind	93 mph	Fair Isle (Shetland)

There are more details about the weather around the UK in 2017 on the [climate pages](#) on our website

Date Created

January 2018

Should the Met Office have named last night's storm?

Description

It's been a complex meteorological picture over the last few days with a number of weather warnings in force across the UK.

A [low pressure](#) system crossed the UK last night (Wednesday into Thursday) bringing strong winds to many areas, in particular to East Anglia and Lincolnshire. This system was forecast as much as a week in advance with Met Office National Severe Weather Warnings being first issued for wind and snow on Monday to allow everyone plenty of time to prepare for it.

Because of the way the system developed there was a degree of uncertainty over the strength of the expected winds and precisely which areas would see the greatest impacts, about which we gave regular updates on our website and social media channels through the week.

[News release issued Monday 15 January 2018](#)

[News release issued Wednesday 17 January 2018](#)

The warnings were constantly under review to ensure they reflected the expected level of impacts and also whether the low pressure system would meet our storm naming criteria, which in this case it didn't.

What was easier to forecast was that the system would develop further as it moved off the east coast of the UK into the North Sea and bring very strong winds to north east France and northern Europe. For this reason the French meteorological service, Météo France, named the system Storm David. Indeed, as Storm David has moved across the near continent it is reported to have led to at least four deaths. Under international naming conventions once the depression had been named by another national meteorological organisation we then also adopt that name.

There are still a number of National Severe Weather Warnings in place for snow and ice, keep up to date with our warnings page on our website for the latest. Further snow showers will affect Northern Ireland, western Scotland and north west England through Thursday and Friday. There is also a risk of ice forming in north east England, Wales and south west England overnight.

By Saturday a ridge of high pressure will move in bringing much brighter and drier conditions to much of the UK before a further front moves in from the south west on Sunday heralding milder temperatures for the start of next week.

Why do we name storms?

We first introduced [the scheme](#) to name storms in partnership with Met Éireann in the winter of 2015/16 in a move aimed at helping improve communication of the possible impacts of up and coming severe weather through the media and government agencies. The idea is to ensure the public have the

information they need to keep themselves, their property and businesses safe.

The criteria we use is based on our [National Severe Weather Warnings](#) service and takes into account both the impact the weather may have, and the likelihood of those impacts occurring.

A storm will, in the main, be named when it has the potential to cause an amber or red warning. When the criteria are met, either the Met Office or Met [Éireann](#) can name a storm.

The system has worked so well that other European countries are now following suit and [Meteo France](#) have joined with met services in Portugal and Spain to introduce a naming convention of their own hence the naming of the storm last night by them Storm David.

We are really pleased that storm naming has captured the imagination of, and been embraced by the press, media and the public, but it is important that we don't enter into the world of speculation around when storms will be named. More often than not the impacts from the weather systems affecting the UK will be within the norm for the time of year so it is important that names are used in the right context.

Storms are only ever named by the Met Office, Met Éireann or our partners in Europe. You can subscribe to email alerts for our weather warnings and storm names and you can follow the Met Office on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) for the latest updates.

Date Created

January 2018